

SCoDNEWS

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Scottish Council on Deafness

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issue 23

Winter/Spring 2011



New Resource Opens in Dundee
BSL Bill Consultation Update
Fundraising Treks Launched
Asian Deaf Club 10th Anniversary



Welcome...

...to the latest issue of SCoDNEWS!
As always, this issue presents a snapshot of the past six months in the life of SCoD.
The BSL Bill consultation

closed in October, find out what happens next on page 3.
We envy members of the Deaf community in Dundee who are lucky enough to be able to benefit from the exciting resource that has just opened in Dundee: the Tayside Deaf Hub. Find out more on pages 8 & 9.
The Glasgow Asian Deaf Club celebrated its tenth anniversary in style at the newly refurbished Grand Central Hotel - find out more on page 6.
Associate member Ella Leith recently tackled one of our treks and raised a substantial sum of money for SCoD. Find out how she got on on page 14... and find out how you can take part on page 15!


Lilian Lawson OBE
SCoD Director

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter, SCoD disclaims any liability for inaccuracy or omission.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of SCoD. No endorsement of services, events or products is intended or implied.

This newsletter is prepared in-house by SCoD staff, with contributions from permanent staff, project staff and other interested parties. Articles for future issues are always welcomed and considered. Please contact the editor:

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October in Perth

Our final National Council meeting of 2010 took place in Perth and was followed by the AGM.
At the National Council meeting, members and associate members gathered to watch presentations from SCoD staff providing updates on their work.

The main theme of the meeting was transport and we were delighted to welcome Bob Benson from the Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS) and George Mair, Director of Confederation of Passenger Transport UK Scotland.
Following their presentations, members of the audience advised the speakers of their transport issues - bus driver attitudes, the constant need for concessionary cardholders to tell drivers their destination, problems renewing these cards and the need to repeatedly produce proof of hearing loss. People were directed to a number of committees in which deaf passengers could participate, such as SATA – the Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance and Passengers View Scotland.

In the afternoon our AGM took place.
After approval of the Annual Report and Accounts, the membership of the Management Committee was finalised with the appointment of six new members:

Alana Trusty (Deaf Links)

Alistair Kelly (Albany Deaf Church)

Avril Hepner (British Deaf Association Scotland)

Donald Richards (Donaldson's)

Jill Bradshaw (Glasgow City Council Interpreting Services)

Willie Macfadyen (British Society for Mental Health and Deafness)

Alan Macdonald was re-elected as the Honorary Treasurer

With SCoD business complete, we settled down to enjoy Dr Murray Earle's presentation on Making the Law in Scotland. In light of the recent BSL Bill consultation, this was a particularly appropriate topic. Dr Earle explained the processes that are followed before a law is made. He also highlighted how organisations and individuals can influence the legislative process through, for example, lodging petitions, responding to consultations and submitting evidence to committees.

Dr Murray Earle works for SPICE (Scottish Parliament Information Centre).

Our 2011 AGM will be held at Tayside Deaf Hub, in the heart of Dundee.

The Annual Report can be downloaded as a pdf from our website: www.scod.org.uk.

If you would prefer a hard copy, contact our office.



Cover image is of the Beano's Minnie the Minx in Dundee City Centre. Perhaps she's on her way to the Tayside Deaf Hub!



Delight for Cathie Craigie MSP as her consultation receives an impressive 850 responses.

BSL Act for Scotland within sight

With speakers including Alan Drew of the Scottish Deaf Youth Association and Lilian Lawson OBE, Director of SCoD at the launch, Cathie Craigie's consultation on the proposed BSL Bill was off to a promising start.

At the closing date of 29th October, an overwhelming total of 850 responses had been received in Cathie Craigie's office. Since most consultation documents traditionally receive around 30 responses, this far exceeded expectations.

At SCoD we set aside two days for Deaf people to visit our offices and have their signed responses to the consultation filmed, converted to DVD and forwarded to Cathie Craigie MSP. Deaf people were also invited to film their response at our annual Open Day during October's Learn to Sign Week which kept us busy.

Lilian Lawson attended a number of events around Scotland where she invited attendees to sign their response to the Bill on camera. All filmed responses (including our own written response) were taken to Kilsyth by Lilian to deliver them in person to a delighted Cathie Craigie MSP.

What Happens Next?

The Non Executive Bills Unit (NEBU) will look through each of the received responses and put together a report. This report will be discussed by the Cross Party Group on Deafness. After the 2011 Scottish Parliamentary election, Cathie Craigie will lodge a final proposal for the Bill with NEBU. This will then be published in the Business Bulletin for one calendar month. If, at the end of the month, at least 18 other MSPs from at least half of the parties represented in the Parliament, have indicated their support, Cathie Craigie has the right to introduce the BSL Bill. If Cathie Craigie is not re-elected in 2011, she will hand the Bill proposal to another MSP from the Cross Party Group on Deafness to take it forward.

More information about the consultation response and progress on the Bill will be available on our website: www.scod.org.uk

Brussels Declaration of Sign Languages in the European Union is signed

The SCoD Director attended the European Union of Deaf People (EUD)'s "Implementation of Sign Language Legislation" Conference in Brussels. Guests were greeted by Deaf MEP Dr Adam Kosa from Hungary who accompanied the tour of the parliament and explained the complex nature of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

The conference itself opened with a welcome from the European Parliament, the European Commission, the EUD, World Federation of the Deaf, European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters and World Association of Sign Language Interpreters. Two main sessions followed: the Sign Language Legislation at European Level and the Implementation of Sign Language Legislation.

An issue of importance highlighted was the need for national deaf organisations in the EU to make more use of their MEPs. Dr Kosa stated that to date only two national deaf associations had lobbied their MEPs. Specific legislation and strategic plans that could affect the Deaf community were discussed. These included the 2020 Strategy on Employment and the Non-European Disability Action Plan 2010-2020. Delegates were advised of

the need to collate statistics on deaf people in the EU to assist the lobbying work

The conference closed with the launch of the first comprehensive study of laws relating to sign language. This was followed by the signing of the "Brussels Declaration" – a significant document about sign language recognition in Europe. It is a useful tool not only to make policy makers aware of the needs of the Deaf community but also give Deaf leaders a document to achieve recognition at national level. We intend to spread awareness of the Brussels Declaration.

Facts

There are 23 official spoken languages and 31 official sign languages in the European Union. The European average ratio of deaf people to sign language interpreter is 65:1. Fifteen European countries fall well below this average.

The EUD's 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner saw Lilian Lawson giving an inspiring speech explaining the instrumental role her husband, the late Jock Young played in founding the EUD in 1985. There was also a screening of ECRS video and photographs from Lilian's personal archives.





57 Signed Varieties for Deaf Heritage Project



We have interviewed 57 Deaf people of ages ranging 50 to 88. Interviews took place all over Scotland in venues including Callendar House in Falkirk, the Discovery Point in Dundee, Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum in Glasgow, the Falkirk Wheel and the 55 Club in Aberdeen. Deaf interviewers, who attended the training day held by the Scottish Oral History Centre, had the opportunity to flex their investigative muscles and conduct the interviews.

Memories of school days, employment, home life, family holidays, social life, driving lessons, aids and telecommunications, even memories of air raids, evacuation and rationing - all were captured on film. Footage discussing employment - the first topic of the series - will be selected and intercut with scanned photographs covering the employment theme. The DVD will be launched in March 2011.

Fielding Deaf Sporting Memories

We are delighted to have been awarded a grant of £8.3k from Awards for All to capture Deaf sporting memories on film. Historically, this is an area that has often been overlooked so this news is particularly welcome. The DVD compilation will be profiled at the forthcoming Deaf History International Congress where the theme will be Deaf Sport Heritage. To learn more about this project, please visit our website: www.scod.org.uk



Follow the progress of the Deaf Heritage project on our website: www.scod.org.uk.



Thanks to an Awards for All grant, Deaf History Scotland was able to run a course entitled "Exploring Your Deaf History". Held over five Saturdays from October to December and in a variety of locations (including Dundee, Falkirk, Edinburgh and Glasgow), the workshops were delivered by historian and researcher, Dr Ronnie Scott. Attendees were shown how to make effective use of information resources such as libraries, archives and of course, the Internet. Instruction was also given in writing, editing and illustrating a research project. In the final workshop, finished works were presented in print format, computer slideshow or were web based.

Deaf History Scotland held its second AGM in Edinburgh in October. Lilian Lawson (SCoD Director) and Dr Ronnie Scott were re-elected to the Executive Committee. Bryan Marshall was elected to fill the vacancy created by Michael Sabell whose resignation was regrettably forced due to a move down south. There was a presentation on Deaf Action's 175th Anniversary, delivered by Harold Nicolson. The 2011 AGM will take place in Dundee, at Tayside Deaf Hub.

ASYLUM SEEKER OR REFUGEE



by Alison Coyle

Do you know the difference between an Asylum Seeker and a Refugee? No, it's not a corny joke. I didn't, until I attended a training day organised by the Ishara Project at Deaf Connections – and neither did most of the others on the course with me. I'd like to share some of the key points from that training which was provided by the Scottish Refugee Council.

An asylum seeker is someone who has fled their homeland because they fear persecution and has asked for asylum in the UK. A refugee is someone who has been granted that asylum. Seems obvious when you know, doesn't it?

Many of us rely on the media for information however, it seems that there's a lot of misinformation out there. Take for example the series of newspaper headlines below where the same three people are described in four different ways. Another interesting point is that the majority of people fleeing persecution have no choice over where they go; their only aim is to find a place of safety and in fact most of them only manage to get over the border into a neighbouring country. One million people each year flee to Pakistan compared to 25,000 to the UK.

The 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees sets out the rights to protection and assistance which a refugee should expect and the obligations of the countries which have signed the Convention to meet these rights. The UK has signed the Convention and therefore has agreed to certain duties to refugees.

An asylum seeker has to prove that their fear of persecution is genuine and is for one of the reasons included in the Convention.

These reasons are: race, religion, nationality, membership of a social group, political opinion.

So what would it be like to be a Deaf asylum seeker in Scotland?

Of course, the process is the same for everyone, but as we'll see successful communication is a key factor and the language/communication barriers are much more difficult to surmount if you are a Sign Language user. You arrive in the UK with little or no possessions after a long difficult journey from somewhere you are afraid to stay any longer and you ask for asylum. After a screening interview (if you're not kept in detention) you will be sent to one of six designated dispersal areas – Glasgow being the only one in Scotland. You've probably never heard of Glasgow but you don't get to choose where you go. You will be given accommodation – most likely in a 'hard-to-let' area and most likely sub-standard. Under the New Asylum Model (introduced in 2005 to speed up the asylum process) you have to present yourself for a "substantive" interview with your case worker within seven to ten days. So, you've been here less than a fortnight. Scotland is very different culturally to your homeland; you're disoriented and afraid and you

have to give sensitive and personal information to a stranger. You don't understand BSL or English and you also have difficulty with the spoken language of your country of origin. It's difficult enough to find an interpreter within this timescale under normal circumstances but it's certainly not long enough for a Deaf asylum seeker to attain a grasp of English or BSL which would be anywhere near sufficient for such an interview. The interview can last up to a whole day – difficult enough with no communication issues. And you only get ONE chance to state your case.

While you await the outcome, you continue to live in sub-standard accommodation and you are not allowed to take paid employment so you have no option but to rely on government support which is less than normal Income Support. Asylum seekers receive 70% of the amount UK citizens receive. If your application is successful – only 17% are in the first instance – you will be granted 'leave to remain' in the UK for five years after which your situation will be reviewed. If it's unsuccessful you can appeal. The success rate for appeals is about 25% - 30%. If your application fails you must return to your country of origin.

THE INDEPENDENT

Refugees killed as train hits minibus on farm crossing

Newspaper headlines reporting the same story in very different ways.

Daily Record

TRAIN HORROR KILLS 3 ASYLUM SEEKERS

Daily Mail

3 migrant workers killed on rail crossing as train hits farm van

DAILY EXPRESS

Three illegal immigrants were killed yesterday in a horrific crash



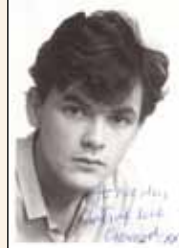
Asian Deaf Club Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary



The Grand Central Hotel

The Glasgow Asian Deaf Club welcomes Deaf people from all minority ethnic backgrounds to join their activities and information sessions which run every Saturday from 1–4.30pm at Deaf Connections. They also provide information on: health; benefits; education; employment; training; personal development and faiths & cultures of different BME (black & minority ethnic) communities. Over the years the club has provided support to many BME people from all over Scotland and they work hard to raise awareness and understanding of the specific needs of members of this community. The club had never held a large scale event, though – until this year; their 10th Anniversary. Over 360 people attended this multi-cultural event at the newly-refurbished Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow. The beautiful ballroom provided the perfect backdrop for Asian dancers and cultural performances from Africa, China and the Punjab. Tables and chairs were specially decorated for the evening and the beautiful cake made an impressive centrepiece. Everyone dressed up to enjoy the entertainment and the incredible four course meal from Saffron catering. Later on, a DJ

provided the music to dance to. Many people came to the anniversary from all over the UK, not just Scotland. In fact, they enjoyed the night so much they wanted another event in Scotland next year! The organisers are having a well-deserved rest after all the hard work arranging this celebration, so something special will be planned for the fifteenth anniversary in 2015.

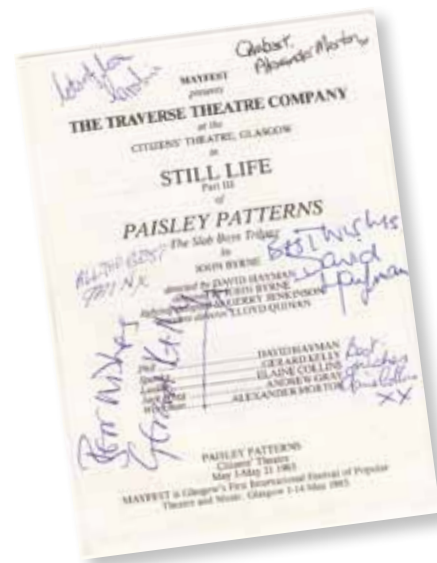


Gerard Kelly A Fan Remembers

I first became aware of Gerard Kelly in my mid teens when he was an ambitious young actor of 21. I had just watched him in the BBC Play for Today 'Donal and Sally' in which he played Donal, a young lad with learning difficulties. His portrayal was as sensitive as it was assured. I wanted to tell him how much I had enjoyed the drama and his performance, so I wrote a letter c/o the BBC in London.

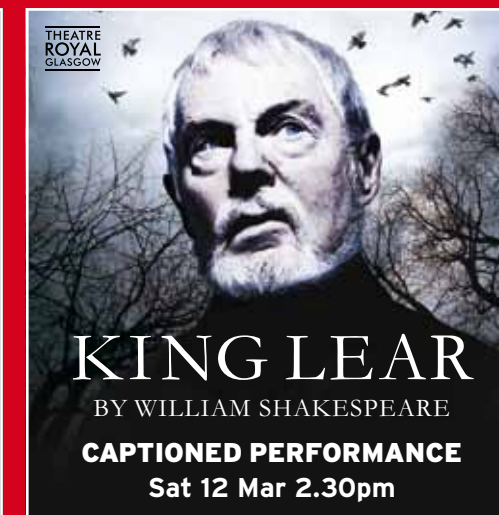
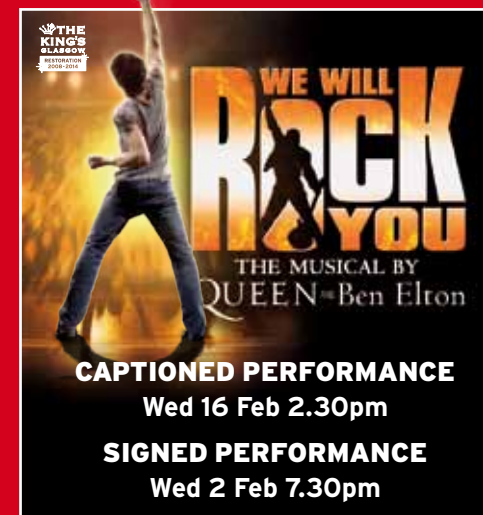
A few weeks later I received a handwritten reply and a couple of signed photos. In his letter, he said "I hope you take the time to write again..." so I did. And that was the start of a correspondence that paralleled Kelly's career for a decade or so.

I saw him in The Slab Boys, Nanny, Going Out, Juliet Bravo, the Young Ones and Killer (the Taggart pilot). Kelly would write to advise me of any upcoming TV appearances to make sure I watched. I scanned the weekly schedules too, scared to miss a show. Although from Glasgow, Kelly had at that time never performed on stage in his home city and was eager to play the Citizen's Theatre. This he did in 1983 as part of Glasgow's Mayfest lineup, in John Byrne's Slab Boys Trilogy, where he reprised his TV role of Spanky Farrell. He starred alongside David Hayman who played the rebel Phil McCann.



CAPTIONED & BSL INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES

at the King's and Theatre Royal Glasgow



TO BOOK TICKETS either visit the King's Theatre Box Office on Bath Street, Glasgow (open 10am - 6pm Mon - Sat) or phone 0844 871 7677 (audio phone). Alternatively, textphone users can call Typetalk on 18001 0844 871 7677. Email glsales@theambassadors.com

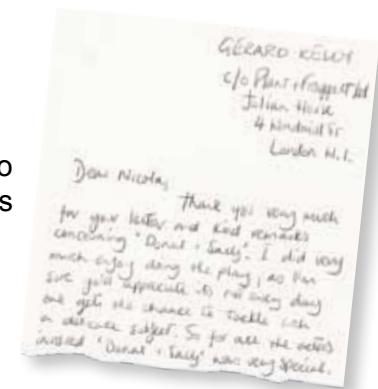


It was at the trilogy performance - an all-day event - and in between shows that I met Kelly for the first time. He was absolutely charming and introduced me to the cast and the writer John Byrne who towered above me. Kelly gave me his home address for me to use instead of writing via his agent. So our correspondence continued and we met up a number of times in Glasgow

and Edinburgh. Kelly was a charming personality. Always professional, always interested and always funny. He was so down to earth and never forgot his fans. He always replied to my letters and never made me feel that I was pestering him – quite the reverse.

Gerard Kelly was a lovely person. We have all lost a good man.

by Nicola Noon



An Interpreter Remembers

I Interpreted for Gerard Kelly in panto for many years. Gerard was a lovely man who always made Interpreters feel welcome. He did not interact too much with Interpreters as he saw us as professionals with a job to do. He always made sure that the Interpreters were acknowledged at the end of the performance. When interpreting, it could be quite hard work keeping up with Gerard as his performances were always so energetic!

by Liz McLuskey

The King's Theatre Remembers

Everyone at the King's Theatre is deeply saddened by the loss of our friend and panto star Gerard Kelly. Kelly – as he was known to his friends – had a long standing relationship with the King's and he'll be greatly missed, not only by everyone here, but also the theatre-going audiences of Scotland. The cast are absolutely committed to delivering a wonderful show this year to honour Kelly's memory. The King's Theatre crown has lost one of its most precious jewels.

In memory of the King's panto legend we are planning a fitting tribute. If you would like to make a donation please visit www.ambassadortickets.com/gerard or call 0844 871 7648 quoting 'Gerard Kelly Donation'.



Exciting New Resource for Dundee



Deaf Links was formed in 2009 to address the unmet need for services for deaf people in Tayside. The charity evolved through direct demand from deaf people for an organisation that truly meets their needs and – perhaps more importantly – involves them in all aspects of service planning and development.

Deaf Links provides training across a wide range of deaf subjects to service providers, organisations and communities. They provide independent volunteer advocates to make sure that deaf people have their voice heard in decisions and services that affect them. They also provide advice, information and support to local deaf people and demand for these services is increasing all the time. Recently, the charity found new premises and a social enterprise arm developed - Tayside Deaf Hub.

Moving to the Hub will enable Deaf Links to increase their capacity to meet the rising demand for these deaf person-centred services.



Old Mill - New Premises

Located in an old mill close to the city centre, the Hub hosts Dundee Deaf Sports and Social Club (DDSSC) and Tayside Deaf Forum (TDF) as well as Deaf Links. The Mill on Brown Street has seen substantial renovation since its days processing jute. The converted building now houses students and student families on the upper floors, leaving the ground floor for the Tayside Deaf Hub.

The vast premises make it possible for the Hub to offer a range of exciting new facilities and services for everyone.

What's Available?

Rooms are available to hire for one-off, occasional or regular use and are ideal for a variety of purposes including; meetings, conferences, seminars, training, fitness classes, dancing, parties, activity/hobby classes, karate, kickboxing - the possibilities are endless. Television, DVD player, laptop, projector or flip chart can be booked for any room at no extra charge. Disabled parking is available by prior arrangement and ample short and long stay parking is available within easy reach. On site catering is available through the Hub Cafe.

The rooms at the Hub are all named after important people in the Deaf community.

The **Scrimgeour** room is a large carpeted modern facility, suitable for a range of activities and has a seating capacity of 35.

The **Drysdale** room is ideal for meetings and IT training. It has a networked suite of PCs with internet access and printing facilities.

The **Edwards** Room is ideally suited to smaller meetings or group activities.

The **McGregor** Hall is a very spacious room, ideal for conferences, larger meetings, sporting activities such as Zumba and Karate, dancing and large parties. The hall can comfortably accommodate 120 people.



The Tayside Deaf Hub logo was designed by Sheila Mulligan. Sheila is a Deaf freelance graphic designer based in Renfrewshire. She has experience of graphic production for leaflets, reports, exhibitions and adverts. Sheila can be contacted by email: s.mulligan.design@btinternet.com

Meet and Eat at the Hub

Offering a range of freshly prepared light meals and snacks, home baking, specialty teas, coffees and soft drinks, the Hub Cafe's appeal is clear. Not only is it in a prime central location, the bright and airy cafe boasts a relaxing lounge area and complimentary WiFi. There's even a pool table! A sample menu can be found on the chalkboard opposite.

Volunteering

There is a wide variety of volunteering, work experience and paid employment opportunities within the Hub. This will offer the opportunity to gain valuable new skills, experience, qualifications and a reference that will enable volunteers to not only work in the Hub but also compete in the wider job market.

www.taysidedeafhub.co.uk

The website is being designed by Richard MacQueen and is expected to launch very soon. Richard is a Deaf multimedia professional and runs his own company, Signed Media.



At SCoD, we wish the Tayside Deaf Hub every success. With Alana Trusty leading, we are sure the enterprise will be a triumph for the Deaf community in Dundee and set a standard for others to follow.



Booking your event at the Hub

Tel/Fax 01382 201077

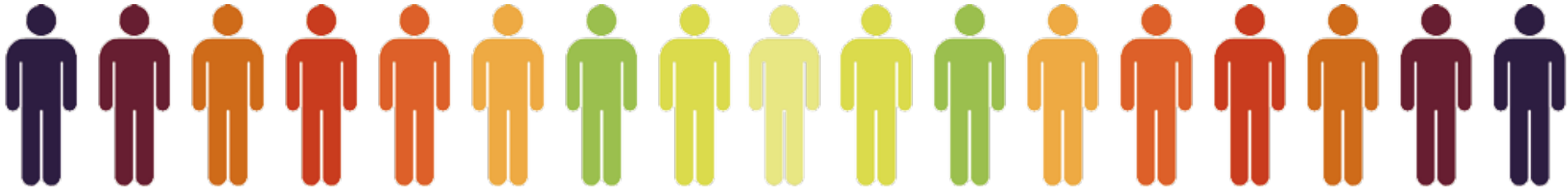
SMS/Text 07711462385

Email alana@deaflinks.org.uk

Online www.taysidedeafhub.co.uk

Address Tayside Deaf Hub
The Old Mill
23 Brown Street
Dundee DD1 5EF

Pam Bruce, DDSSC Treasurer
"This process has been a valuable learning experience for deaf people. We have never been given the chance before to do things for ourselves in this way. We have learned about negotiating terms for a lease, dealing with property lawyers, pursuing planning permission, and funding, amongst many other things. We now see that we don't have to put up with being told what is best for us and we are keen to learn more so we can be equal with hearing people."



Thanks!
Deaf Links would like to thank the following organisations for their generous donations of furniture, equipment, furnishings and labour: The University of Abertay, Dundee University, Dundee Blind and Partially Sighted Society, Gerfloor, Ecophon, Ideal Standard, Angus Mental Health Association, Dundee City Council, the Eric Liddell Centre and the Criminal Justice Services at Dundee City Council.

The Equality Act

Most of the provisions of the Equality Act came into force on 1st October. The Act is intended to harmonise and simplify the legislation it replaces.

The Act brings together for the first time all the legal requirements on equality that the private, public and voluntary sectors need to follow. It affects equality law at work and in delivering all sorts of services and running clubs.

It replaces all the existing equality law including:

The Equal Pay Act 1970;
The Sex Discrimination Act 1975;
The Race Relations Act 1976; and
The Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Who does the law protect?

All employees and service users have the right to be treated fairly at work or when using services. It protects people from discrimination on the basis of certain characteristics. These are known as 'protected characteristics'. There are some differences whether a person is at work or using a service.

Who has responsibilities under the Equality Act?

All employers and service providers have a responsibility under the law to treat their employees and service users fairly. The law generally still applies to organisations that employ people on a temporary basis, those who do not have written contracts of employment or are recruited to other positions such as trainees, apprentices or volunteers.

The law protects against: Discrimination, as follows:

Direct discrimination (treating a person worse than someone else because of a protected characteristic), *Indirect* discrimination (putting in place a rule or way of doing things that has a worse impact on someone with a protected characteristic than someone without one, when this cannot be objectively justified),

The Nine Protected Characteristics

Age[‡]: Where this is used, it refers to a person belonging to a particular age (18 year olds) or range of ages (18 – 65 year olds)

Disability: covers all disabilities, including mental health, which have a significant and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities

Gender reassignment: refers to a person who is going through the process of changing their gender from one to the other, even if s/he decides not to have surgery.

Marriage or civil partnership[§]

Pregnancy and maternity: gives protection to the woman if she is ill as a result of her pregnancy, on maternity leave, for 26 weeks after giving birth, and includes treating a woman unfavourably because she is breastfeeding.

Race: includes race, colour, nationality, citizenship, ethnic or national origins.

Religion and belief: belief covers religious and philosophical beliefs including lack of belief. Generally, a belief should affect your life choices or the way you live for it to be included in the definition.

Sex or Gender

Sexual orientation

[‡] Does not come into force until 2012.

[§] This protected characteristic does not apply to service users.

Discrimination *arising from disability* (treating a disabled person unfavourably because of something connected with their disability when this cannot be justified.) and *Failing to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people*.

The law also protects against: Harassment (unwanted conduct which has the purpose of violating someone's dignity or which is hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive to someone with a protected characteristic or in a way that is sexual in nature) and Victimisation (treating someone unfavourably because they have taken (or might be taking) action under the Equality Act or is supporting somebody who is doing so).

The law also protects people from being discriminated against: - by someone who wrongly perceives them to have one of the protected characteristics, for example if someone thinks that a male colleague is gay and treats that person badly because of this, then the person is protected by the Act.

- because they are associated with someone who has a protected characteristic. This includes the parent of a disabled child or the adult carer of a disabled person.

This is only a tiny view of some of the provisions of the Equality Act - which runs to some 239 pages with 218 sections and 28 schedules. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has published guidance for service providers, employers and service users on its website:

www.equalityhumanrights.com/equalityact

Guidance is also available in hard copy. Call 0845 604 5510 or write to EHRC, The Optima Building, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DU.



Policy & Research

Mandy Reid

Many people in Scotland are concerned about the cuts taking place in public services and other areas following the UK Government Spending Review in October and the reduction in the money available to the Scottish Government.

The announcements coincide with the need for service providers and employers to act on the provisions in the new Equality Act and take measures to prevent discrimination against people who have the protected characteristics named in the Act. The Equality Act 2010 replaces the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and offers greater protection to deaf people than before – find out more on the page opposite. The Scottish Government has been consulting on the new Equality Duty for Public Bodies which comes into force in April 2011.

Social Work Services

A year ago, the Forum of Social Work Service Providers to Deaf People in Scotland, The British Association of Social Workers and the Association of Directors of Social Work held a 'summit' to explore some of the issues faced by social work service providers and deaf service users when accessing social work services. In preparation for the summit, I was asked to carry out some research to find out whether or not social work department staff in Scotland have the necessary specialist skills to work with deaf people.

All 32 directors of social work in Scotland were sent a questionnaire to cascade down to all of their staff. The staff in 20 councils responded – 955 people in total. The analysis of these returned questionnaires can be found on our website in two separate reports. The first report was used at the summit to show how few qualified social workers have the necessary skills to work with and support deaf people. Only one Council stands out – Highland: social work staff working with deaf people have undergone the most training in order to give deaf people as appropriate a service as possible.

The second report looked at the training and communication skills of other staff who work within social work departments. Again, very few staff have the necessary specialist skills needed to work with deaf people.

Health

Earlier this year the Scottish Government announced that they had approved and are now funding a Pan-Scotland Specialist Community Mental Health Service for deaf people with moderate to severe mental health problems, to be hosted by NHS Lothian with significant

expert input from NHS Lanarkshire. The Scottish Government is still considering the other issues raised by the business case.

The work with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Mental Health Working Group is ongoing. There remains a concern that deaf patients in mainstream psychiatric units are not receiving appropriate communication support. This concern has also raised the need for deaf awareness and communication skills training not only for hospital staff but also for the Community Mental Health Teams.

The Scottish Parliament Health and Sport Committee asked for written evidence for the Palliative Care (Scotland) Bill. We submitted a paper detailing some of the issues deaf people face when trying to access palliative care and were then invited to give oral evidence at the Committee. As part of the preparation for this evidence, I contacted several hospices and palliative care teams around Scotland to find out what provision there is for deaf people. From the replies received, we were able to suggest that they contact their local deaf organisations to access training for their staff and additional support for deaf people who use their services.

Transport

At our National Council meeting in October, the invited speakers gave presentations on accessible transport in Scotland. We were invited to put together a paper on the issues raised at the meeting so that they could be discussed at the Mobility & Access Committee for Scotland (MACS).

At the Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance (SATA) meeting in November, the guest speaker from the Scottish Government spoke on access to public transport including buses. The speaker suggested that organisations should be lobbying CoSLA and local councils as they have a responsibility for bus routes and accessible transport though there is little mention of this in the Single Outcome Agreements.

The SATA Chair has been invited to give evidence at the EHRC Inquiry into Disability Harassment and asked members for information he could take to the meeting. We put together a paper highlighting how deaf people have been treated since the introduction of the smart card.

If you would like to know more about my work or get involved in our consultation responses, please contact mandy@scod.org.uk or tele/textphone 0141 248 1854.



Graduation Day

A proud Richard on Graduation Day

During my years in Social Work and Ministry work I have often been faced with the task of 'counselling' deaf people and although I did the work satisfactorily I knew that there was something missing in the form of counselling training but I was not sure how to undertake such training and was too busy to check out the availability of training. It was only when SCoD advised that applications were sought for the final cohort of students on the Post Graduate Certificate in Counselling at the University of Strathclyde at the Jordanhill Campus did I apply. I found the course very interesting and this fired up my interest in counselling even more. Realising that with only a certificate I could not practice as a counsellor, I challenged myself a step further and applied for the Post Graduate Diploma also at Strathclyde University. I found this course much harder than the certificate course and it was very expensive indeed! I had limited funding help and met much of the cost myself. Nevertheless, it was satisfying for me to know that after a total of four years of hard labour studying part-time I graduated on the 6th November.

I am now a fully fledged person centred counsellor. During my diploma course I had the wonderful experience of a two year practice placement in the Tom Allan Centre in Glasgow. This is a counselling agency and, although run by the Church of Scotland, is a service for all needs and for all different faiths and for those with no religious faith.

At the present time I am not seeking to become a career counsellor but to use my training to complement and/or supplement my ministry service among deaf people. I have a limited availability of time for counselling among deaf and hard of hearing people who are either church members or deaf people from all walks of life.

I am due to retire from my ministry in the year 2016 when I reach 65 years of age and if by then I am of sound health and mind then my third career as counsellor may take off.

In closing I would like to thank Lilian Lawson and the Scottish Council on Deafness for enabling me to kick start my academic study for the counselling career without whom I may not have reached where I am today.

Rev Richard Durno is the minister for the John Ross Memorial Church for Deaf People in Glasgow and is responsible for the ministry amongst deaf people in the west of Scotland.

Hazel's Journey

In June 2009 I attended a Counselling Training Workshop held in Dundee as part of the Counselling Awareness Project. I had been interested in training to become a counsellor and wanted to find out more about what courses were available to me.

At this event I was delighted to discover that a Diploma in Integrative Counselling delivered in British Sign Language was being offered by the British Society for Mental Health and Deafness, Inter-Psyche and Sign Health, in collaboration with The University of Birmingham. I applied for the course, was accepted and joined in October 2009. On the first day I was surprised to be the only Scottish attendee, the nineteen others hailing mainly from England, with a few from Ireland. Everyone on the course is Deaf.

Lectures are held in Coventry and take place over a weekend each month, from Friday to Sunday. The training we are given offers us the opportunity to gain competency in counselling skills and a deeper understanding of the importance of developing supportive client/counsellor relationships.

Emotional

Personally speaking, this course has at times been a struggle for me. As part of the learning process, you are required to explore your own emotions. This can result in the discovery of emotional issues of which you may have previously been unaware.

I am learning so much about myself as I go along and am sure that this, my final year, will be a more positive experience for me. At this stage though, my aims are to gain a better insight into myself as a person, to better equip myself to deal with life's challenges and to simply feel more comfortable within myself.

And then if all goes well, by the end of this year I will have gained my diploma. If any Deaf people are struggling with issues such as anger or low self-esteem I urge them to think of counselling as an option. Finding a counsellor with experience or an understanding of deafness who can communicate one on one is definitely beneficial.

by Hazel Ramsay



As well as continuing with the original aims of the project, much of my time has been spent working with Citizens Advice Bureaux, Credit Unions and money advice organisations encouraging them to make their services more accessible to deaf and deafblind people. A healthy number have been keen to meet with me, which is very encouraging.

Increasing the knowledge of counselling among deaf and deafblind people

In early August I travelled to Caithness to deliver two workshops, an afternoon session in Wick followed by an evening in Thurso. Unfortunately no one turned up in Wick and only one person appeared in Thurso. It is disappointing to travel so far for such a poor turnout.

Later that same month, a more successful workshop was held at the deaf club in Ayrshire. A productive discussion ensued; some contributors had experience of counselling and counselling training so were able to express informed views and opinions.

A visit to the Scottish Deaf Association in October ensured that younger deaf people had the opportunity to gain from the project. Deaf counsellor Michael Davis made a presentation which provoked thoughtful questions.

Making services more accessible through work with GPs, counsellors and other health professionals

Providing deaf and deafblind awareness training to GPs, health professionals, counsellors, counselling organisations and social workers – free of charge – has continued to prove very popular.

For those organisations unable to attend the training day in their area, we took the training to them. GP surgeries in Rothesay and

More information from Barbra Wylie
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email barbra@scod.org.uk

Counselling Awareness

Dunoon as well as a counselling organisation in Kirkcaldy have all been trained on site. This gives trainees a greater understanding of the changes needed for their service and environment to be fully accessible to deaf and deafblind people.

In August a training day was held in Inveraray and again we had an excellent turnout, including Audiology staff. These days are always very popular and those who attend have nothing but praise for the content and the trainers.

A training day was held in Skye in November and was not only attended by staff from local counselling and support organisations but also by a number of local Citizens Advice Service advisers. Those who attended valued the training and appreciated us making the effort to travel to them.

Over 200 people from all over Scotland have been trained. This includes GPs, Psychiatrists, Nurses, Counsellors, Support Workers and Care Home Staff. A wide range of professions attending is encouraging and the evaluation forms (returned after the training) indicate that their new knowledge is being cascading throughout the workplace.

Increasing awareness of counselling training pathways

Since the last newsletter, no further counselling training pathways workshops have been held.

Of the two Deaf women who entered training as a result of this project, one has completed her Counselling Skills and the other is in her final year.

We have put together a course directory which contains information about all college and university counselling courses in Scotland. The directory, in the projects section of our website, is available as a pdf to download or view online.
www.scod.org.uk

Project extension

The Big Lottery Recession Fund granted the project a four month extension which has enabled us to work with money advice organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureaux, Credit Unions and other organisations whether independent or local authority affiliated.

After contacting these organisations to introduce the project and with an invitation to meet, a number have responded to set a meeting or even to invite me to attend a team briefing. These meetings are ongoing throughout the duration of the project. I have also been able to provide free deaf and deafblind awareness training.

Improving the accessibility of these services is very important. With the current economic situation, more and more people are facing financial difficulties and may need support. It is therefore reassuring that organisations understand the need to make their services accessible to deaf and deafblind people.

Ella and the Great Glen Way

In September, SCoD associate member Ella Leith braved the challenge of the Great Glen Way, walking its 73 miles in just 5 days! In doing this, she raised vital funds for SCoD. Shortly after returning from the trek, we interviewed her to find out how she got on...

What made you choose to go on an organised trek rather than walking it independently?
Because I would never have got round to organising it on my own! I saw the trek advertised in a SCoD bulletin and decided just to go for it, because it's an excellent cause and a great excuse to go hiking, which is something I love to do but never make time for.

How did you train for the trek (or did you rely on natural fitness)?
Not as much as I should have done or wanted to! The hike took place a couple of weeks after I needed to hand in a Post Graduate dissertation, and I was a bit too optimistic when I signed up to the trek about how well organised I'd be and how much training I'd be able to do! But I tried to go on as many short walks as I could around Edinburgh in the preceding months, and a few day-long hikes on the Fife Coastal route and in Cumbria and Angus.

Can you tell us a wee bit about the trek itself...
I went up to Inverness by train the day before and stayed in a B&B, but I was so excited and nervous I didn't get a very good night's sleep! The group met up at 10am on Saturday morning: there were five of us, four women and one man (they were fundraising for Cancer Research and Epilepsy Action), as well as Susan, the mini-bus driver and co-ordinator, and the guide Steve. The first day

was the longest. We walked from Inverness to Drumnadrochit, which was about 18.5 miles and took us through forestry and moorland, and then over the highest part of the route to the woods above Loch Ness. Seeing the minibus at the end waiting to take us to a B&B was a sight for sore eyes (and legs)! On the second day we walked from Drumnadrochit to Invermoriston, the third day from Invermoriston through Fort Augustus to Aberchalder, the fourth down Loch Oich and Loch Linnhe to Gairloch (that was an epic-feeling day because we really got a sense of how far we'd come!) and then on the final day down the canal to Fort William. I was expecting to be exhausted when we arrived, but weirdly I felt so happy and relaxed I just wanted to keep going! So while everyone else got a lift in the minibus back to Glasgow, I stayed in the Highlands for another couple of days.

Were you lucky with your weather on the trek? How did it affect the walk?
We were lucky for the most part - the first two days were dry, warm and breezy; the final day walking down into Fort William was glorious, although Ben Nevis was hiding in some very picturesque clouds. The third day was extremely wet and blustery, and I think the others didn't really enjoy it - although I found it quite fun and exhilarating! None of us had put on our waterproof trousers in time and so we were all absolutely soaking wet - we

were better prepared the next day, which was much colder and very changeable. But I found that personally the weather didn't really affect my enjoyment of the walk much at all.

Did you find it a strenuous walk?
Towards the end of the first day I thought I was going to have a horrible time for the rest of the trek, because my legs and feet were aching so much. But I had a hot bath, did some stretching exercises and put on some heat rub, and the next morning I was only a little bit stiff - and once we started walking I was fine! It was certainly a tiring walk and I was happy to get to my bed every night, but I didn't find it particularly strenuous.

Would you recommend the trek?
Definitely! You really feel you've achieved something, and it's a nice way of seeing the Great Glen without getting stuck behind tourist buses! I'd definitely recommend the path down the eastern side of Loch Oich - it was beautiful!

Why did you choose to support SCoD?
I first read about the hike in the context of fundraising for SCoD. SCoD does a lot of really valuable work and I thought it sounded like a very fun way to support it.

You proved very successful with your fundraising, do you have any tips?
People were incredibly generous. Having a page on justgiving.com

was useful - I emailed the link (with a pleading message!) to various friends and family, and also made a Facebook group. Otherwise, it was just a case of oh-so-subtly bringing up the fact that I was going on the trek in conversation, producing the sponsorship form and smiling winningly! I think it's important to emphasise that it doesn't matter how much they give - pounds or pence are all useful and greatly appreciated - and to be very grateful of their support. I am lucky in having really generous friends and family, many of whom joined me on my training walks and spread the word. One taxi driver even refused to take a fare and asked me to add it to the fund instead, which was so lovely!

What advice would you give to anyone thinking about doing a trek?
When training, walk on as many different terrains as you can. One girl on the trek had done loads of training but lived in a very flat area, and she got terrible blisters and muscle aches because her body just wasn't used to going up and down hills. Invest in really comfy hiking boots and wear them all the time. Buy a heat rub, lip balm and midge repellent. Drink loads of water. Otherwise, I'd just encourage you to do it - it was a lot of fun, and you'll probably come out wanting to do another one!

Make 'To Do' ... 'Today'

Has Ella's story inspired you? Why not follow in her steps, challenge yourself and support SCoD at the same time.

Isn't walking the **West Highland Way** on everyone's 'to do' list? We are offering you the opportunity to tick it off that list at last! With the support of trained Charitytrek guides, you can enjoy some of Scotland's most breathtaking views - raising vital funds for our charity as you go. Walk the 95 miles from Milngavie to Fort William in May (14th - 19th). Just pledge to raise a minimum £750. Alternatively, discover a land of quiet roads, stunning scenery and incredible wildlife on our cycling challenge **The Hebridean Odyssey** (5th - 10th May), pledging to raise a minimum £780 to participate. We are also offering the opportunity to climb Britain's highest peak. The **Ben Nevis Challenge** takes place over a weekend, in May (27th - 29th) and again in September (9th - 11th), and we simply ask you to pledge

a minimum £375 for the trek. Help us to support deaf people across Scotland by participating on one of our treks, accompanied by Charitytrek's experienced guides. To secure your place, all you need to do is complete and return a registration form along with a deposit of £75 (£100 for the Hebridean Odyssey). Registration forms and information packs can be downloaded from our website. Just visit www.scod.org.uk and click "support us". To make it even easier to raise funds for the trip, you can start your own personal 'Justgiving' page by going to: www.justgiving.com/scod If you would like to know more you can also contact our fundraiser, Linda Ogston. Email: linda@scod.org.uk or telephone/text: 0141 248 1854. Linda works on Thursdays.

In association with Charitytrek - one of Scotland's leading service providers in the organisation and management of fully supported walks and treks.



Support SCoD:

Make a Donation

SCoD works tirelessly to improve the lives of all deaf people in Scotland, to help promote their rights as individuals and to reduce their sense of exclusion. We need your help to continue this work. Please give generously.

I wish to make a donation of £

My Name:

My Address:

Please make cheques/postal orders payable to **Scottish Council on Deafness**.

Beat the tax man and make your gift to SCoD go further. If you are a tax payer, for every pound you donate we can claim an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue - all you need to do is tick the box on the right. We'll do the rest!

thinking of supporting our work?

giftaid it ☐



Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD)

Representing the interests of Deaf Sign Language users, Deafblind, Deafened and Hard of Hearing people throughout Scotland for over 80 years

Support us

Here's how:

- Become a Full Member
- Make a Donation
- Ask your employer about Give As You Earn
- Leave a Legacy in your Will
- Volunteer with SCoD

Contact us

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 Web: www.scod.org.uk
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Join us



Full Membership

Band	Income/Turnover	Fee
1	up to £50k	£50
2	up to £100k	£100
3	up to £250k	£125
4	up to £500k	£150
5	up to £1million	£200
6	over £1million	£300

As the 'Voice of Deaf People', SCoD is the lead organisation for deaf issues in Scotland.

We represent 90 organisations working with and on behalf of Deaf Sign Language users, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing people. Our membership provides an effective working partnership between the Voluntary Sector, Social Work and Education Departments, NHS Trusts, Health Boards and the Government.

SCoD membership offers excellent benefits, including the opportunity to shape government policy and improve the lives of deaf people in Scotland.

Renewable annually, **full membership** runs from April 1st to March 31st of the following year. Full membership is open to organisations only.

Full SCoD Membership Application Form

Organisation

I wish to become a Band Member (see above for banding)

Key contact

Voice

Address

Text

Fax

SMS

Postcode

Email

Please invoice me at the address shown ☐

Web

I enclose a cheque or postal order payable to the Scottish Council on Deafness ☐

Once completed, please post or fax this page to SCoD - details below